

Please pray:

- ✿ Laval: May we continue to pray for this land; that the Lord may continue to shepherd the contacts in their situations; may the Lord gain a proper testimony in the city of Laval according to His timing.
- ✿ GTCA (Jan 26 - Feb 12): Pray for Ottawa, Kitchener/Guelph, Hamilton/St. Catharines, Windsor, and in the west coast, Lethbridge, Alberta; pray that the Lord will prepare these lands to be harvested; pray for our FTTA trainees who will join us in these cities for contacting new ones; pray that many saints will be able to cooperate with the Lord in this move in going, in praying and in shepherding the contacts; pray that the Lord will gain what He is after in these cities through this move.
- ✿ India: May the Lord continue His perfecting work in all the full-time serving ones in India so that all the serving ones can be a proper person in life and thus become channels in the service to minister life for the building up of the Body of Christ with its organic practice; that the Lord would preserve the college students from the godlessness of this age by making these young people a generation in India that would know, see and gain God to become the mystery of godliness as the built up church of the fulfillment of His purpose.
- ✿ We thank our Lord for His speaking during the 2017 Winter training on Christ being our offerings: as the burnt offering – to satisfy God and express God; as the meal offering – with His fine and balanced humanity for our enjoyment, so we may become His duplication; as our sin offering – by His death on the cross, He condemned sin in His flesh, so that we do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the spirit; as our trespass offering, He is the Lamb of God – we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness; as the peace offering between God and His children, we can enjoy God as our portion in the vital group church life. May we learn to apply Him as the reality of the offerings in our daily living!
- ✿ Pray for various local needs, including saints in Montreal, contacts, and those in need of care and shepherding.

Weekly Readings

- ✿ Holy Bible Recovery Version with footnotes: 1 Cor 12:12 - 14:40 (see website for daily schedule)
- ✿ HWMR: Knowing Life and the Church, weeks 5 and 6

Announcements

- ✿ Please renew or sign-up for the HWMR subscription for 2018. If you have not yet paid your district serving one, please pay right away to your district serving one who gives you HWMR.

Lord's Day Lunch Serving and Cleaning Schedule

Jan 7	✿ Serving: Chinese Central 1 ✿ Cleaning: English Central and College (Dennis, Joe responsible)
14	✿ Serving: Chinese South B ✿ Cleaning: French (Achille, Allan responsible)
21	✿ Serving: Chinese East ✿ Cleaning: Whole meeting hall cleaning
28	✿ Serving: Chinese North ✿ Cleaning: English West, Chinese West and Young People (John Y., Boy, Aaron Cha. responsible)

Upcoming Events

- ✿ December 26, 2017 to Jan 1, 2018, Meeting hall: **Video Training**
- ✿ Jan 27 - Feb 11, Ottawa/Montreal: **GTCA**
- ✿ Feb 23 - 25, Montreal. QC: **Working saints conference**
- ✿ Apr 13-15, Anaheim, CA: **Spring ITERO**

The church website lists more events

This Week's Activities

7 JANUARY LORD'S DAY	✿ 10am – 12:15pm: Lord's table and prophesying meeting ✿ 12:15pm – 1:30pm: Love feast
8 Monday	✿
9 Tuesday	✿ 7:30-9:00pm: English/French/Chinese prayer meetings by districts
10 Wednesday	✿
11 Thursday	✿
12 Friday	✿ Various home meetings (English / French / Chinese)
13 Saturday	✿
14 JANUARY LORD'S DAY	✿ 10am – 12:15pm: Lord's table and prophesying meeting ✿ 12:15pm – 1:30pm: Love feast

DELIVERANCE

Scripture Reading: Rom. 7:15—8:2

II. MAN'S WILL BEING UNABLE TO OVERCOME THE LAW OF SIN (continued)

It is easy to see that temper is a sin. When someone says something unkind, you feel hurt and upset. If he continues to speak unpleasant words, you may hit your desk, blow up, exchange words, or do anything. Afterwards, you may feel that as a Christian you should not have lost your temper, and you may resolve to control your temper the next time. You pray and believe that God has forgiven you. You confess your sin to others, and your heart is once again filled with joy. You think that you will never lose your temper again. But a little later, you hear more unkind words and become upset once again. When these words come to you the second time, you begin to murmur within. By the third time, your temper explodes. Afterwards, you realize that you were wrong again, and you ask the Lord for forgiveness, promising Him that you will never lose your temper again. But the same thing happens the next time you hear unkind words; after a while, your temper flares up again. You exercise your will again and again, only to find that you fail again and again. This proves that sin is not an accidental mistake; it is not something that happens only once. It is something that happens repeatedly, something that haunts you all your life. Those who lie continue to lie, and those who lose their temper continue to lose their temper. This is a law; no human power can overcome it. Paul did not learn this lesson at first, so he exercised his will repeatedly to no avail. It is impossible for man to try to overcome the law of sin by his will.

Once the Lord grants you mercy and shows you that sin is a law, you will not be far from victory. If you continue to think that sin is an occasional act and that victory can be secured through additional prayers and struggles against temptations, you are far from victory. Paul's story shows us that sin is a law. The power of sin is strong; our own power is weak. The power of sin always prevails, while our own power always fails. As soon as Paul realized that sin is a law, he knew that none of his methods would work. His determination was useless; he would never overcome the law of sin by his will. This was a great discovery, a great revelation to him.

Paul saw that a man cannot experience deliverance by the exercise of the will. As long as a man trusts in the power of his own will, he will not turn to God's way of deliverance. The day will come when you will prostrate yourself before God and acknowledge that you can do nothing and henceforth will do nothing. That will be the day you find deliverance. Only then

will you understand Romans 8. Brothers and sisters, please do not belittle Romans 7. We must first have the knowledge of chapter seven before we can have the experience of chapter eight. The problem is not whether you understand the doctrine in Romans 8 but whether or not you have emerged from Romans 7. Many have buried themselves in Romans 7; they are still trying to deal with sin by their will. The result is nothing but failure. If you have not seen that sin is a law and that your will can never overcome this law, you are trapped in Romans 7; you will never arrive at Romans 8. Our newly saved brothers and sisters must accept God's Word as it is written. If you try to find your own way out, you will end up with nothing but sin. You will sin again and again, and your eyes will continue to be veiled. You will remain in your blindness. Your eyes need to be opened to see that all your willing and struggling is in vain.

Since sin is a law and the will cannot overcome this law, what is the way of victory?

Note: The content is extracted from New Believers Series: #15, Deliverance by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org/alphabetical.cfm>.